Month	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
JUL	700	700	950	550
AUG	740	700	900	550
SEP	725	675	880	540
OCT	700	675	850	540
NOV	725	800	850	525
DEC	750	800	850	NA
JAN	760	900	825	NA
FEB	750	850	800	—
MAR	750	700	825	—

NA: Not available

Revival packages for NTC mills in Kerala

917. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps initiated to implement the revival package of NTC mills in Kerala;

(b) the time-frame by which the revival scheme be fully implemented including the payment of VRS to surplus workers; and

(c) the details and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) As per the Rehabilitation Scheme approved for NTC (APKKM), all the mills in Kerala have been proposed for revival. The following steps have so far been taken for implementation of the scheme:

(i) Dues to the secured creditors amounting to Rs. 63 Cr have been settled under One Time Settlement improving credit worthiness of the Company.

(ii) An amount of Rs. 50 Lakhs has been released to NTC (APKKM) for repair and renovation of machinery in these mills.

(iii) Arrangement has been made with Cotton Corporation of India for uninterrupted supply of raw material to improve the utilization and production.

(iv) Training has been organized for the employees and staff in order to improve their productivity.

Because of these measures, the utilisation of these mills has increased to 81% by January 2003.

(b) and (c) Revival plan is to be implemented within 2 years w.e.f. 1.4.2002. As per sanctioned scheme, there are no surplus employees in Kerala. Hence, payment of VRS is not envisaged. The Government is committed to successful implementation of the scheme.

Deteriorating state of powerloom industry

918. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deteriorating state of powerloom industry in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Governments' have formulated any action plan for the revival of this vital sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) The number of powerlooms in the country has grown to an estimated figure of 16.80 lakh as on 31.12.2002. This sector contributes about 59% of the total cloth production in the country and providing employment to about 42 lakh persons.

The number of powerlooms in Andhra Pradesh installed during the last three years has been reported as below:

Sl.No.	Year (ending on 31st December)	No. of looms installed	No. of workers engaged
1.	2000-01	43,535	1,08,838
2.	2001-02	43,903	1,09,758
3.	2002-03	43,923	1,09,808

(c) and (d) Government has taken several initiatives to facilitate growth of the decentralized powerloom industry. These include:

(i) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced. Incentives are available under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme where the powerloom owner can either avail 12% upfront Capital Linked